

Strange Days

A Journal of
Ufology



Number 2
Mar/Apr 1994

INSIDE: News; North East Cases; Tunguska Revisited; The Roswell Crash;
Zecharia Sitchin & Ancient Astronauts; Qabalah.



INTERIOR NORTHERN UFO RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION

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Strange Days

Editorial Address.

Please send any letters, articles, comments, pictures or complaints to :

D.A. Newton,
9 Brodrick Close,
Kenton Bar,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE3 3SG.

INVESTIGATIONS >>>

Please send any information relating to UFO sightings or investigations to:

Gloria Dixon,
14 Longhirst Drive,
Woodlands Park,
Wideopen,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE13 6JW.
091 236 8375.

COVER PICTURE: The Palenque "Astronaut" carved on a sarcophagus lid from the Temple of Inscriptions, Palenque, Mexico. It depicts a deceased ruler, suspended between the worlds of the dead and the living, in a complex symbolic pattern. (Taken from "The Space Gods Revealed", by Ronald Story.)

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NEXT MEETING!!!! A provisional date has been set for our next meeting:
SATURDAY 28th MAY

Please can you contact Gloria (either by writing or by telephone) to confirm that you will be attending.

Many thanks to David Field, who gave a talk at the last meeting on the connections between UFO experiences and folklore.

Strange Days Newsletter : Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of Strange Days. The response to the first edition was generally enthusiastic, and thus I have once more donned the Editor's cap and hijacked the photocopier. Having made it to a second edition, I feel duty bound to express my gratitude to those who have helped to make it all possible: Thanks must go to Gloria, one of the most enthusiastic and hard working people that I have ever met; Craig and George, who have contributed to this newsletter as well; the librarians and students at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, who have waited patiently while I have hogged and abused the copier; and the Fortean Times, a source of much inspiration, and from which the title of this newsletter was poached.

And now for something completely different: This season's editorial rant.

I would like to open this edition by telling you about a dream that I recently had: It was a rather unpleasant dream, in which I ran over one of our three cats, and had to bury her in the back garden (as is traditional). It was a particularly vivid and unpleasant sequence of events, which may be why I can recall it so well. One of the things that struck me was that I can distinctly remember thinking "I wish this was a dream, but I know that it isn't because it is too real". Luckily, I woke up a short while later, and of course realized that it was a dream. This is not the only time that I have had dreams that have felt totally real at the time. This raises some interesting points. While we are dreaming, the experiences are as strong as those in everyday life (often a good deal stronger), but as soon as we wake up we know that it has been a dream, usually because what we can remember is incredibly weird, and could not possibly have happened in "real life". Dreams take place inside the mind, and what happens is controlled by the software running inside the brain. "Real life" has the added constraint of the laws of physics (not that we know all of those yet). However, dreams can be as weird or as normal as they choose to be, and my particular dream, as far as I can recall, was entirely the same as real life. So, was it reality? Apparently not, because I woke up, and the cat is still alive.

Like any strong experience, the contents of this dream have been entered into my memory, along with other dreams, stories I have read and heard, television programmes and movies, and events that have happened to me in "real life". Sometimes the "fiction" and "non-fiction" labels that we attach to memories can become confused, and investigators of the unusual should bear this in mind. Even Dr Jean Piaget, one of the world's leading developmental psychologists, has recounted how he could clearly remember an event from early in his childhood - which turned out later to be only a story he had heard about from his parents, who in turn had heard it from a maid. Somewhere along the line, he had visualized himself in that situation, and that was the form in which it was recorded in his memory.

In the absence of any other corroborative evidence, who can say whether a memory represents truth or fiction? And, for that matter, what is "the truth"? Tests have shown that most of the time we see what we expect to see; the brain can only process a fraction of the sensory input, so it deals with what it considers to be the most important input, and ignores the rest. It fills in the blanks with what it thinks we ought to see and hear. For example: Inside the eyeball, there is a blind spot where the optic nerve enters the back of the eye.

CONT 99

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Why do we never notice this gap in our field of vision? Because the brain fills it in with what it thinks should be in that gap. New and unusual events may either be ignored or misinterpreted, as the brain struggles to understand and correctly pigeon hole the experience (for instance, the native Americans literally could not see the first steam locomotives that puffed across the plains; such creatures were too alien for their brains to comprehend, and were filtered out). Witnesses to an event may come away with totally different impressions of what happened, and may not agree on details even after watching a recording of that event. The net result is that every person lives in their own "reality tunnel", a reality slightly different to that experienced by every other individual. Most of the time, we manage to agree on the reality that surrounds us, using convenient labels such as "table", "chair", "tree", "human", etc (although one man's Mickey Mouse may be another man's telephone, and one man's terrorist may be another man's freedom fighter). We have to remember that every object and event will be experienced and remembered slightly differently by everyone. We all have our own, unique, reality tunnels. Is my view of reality any more "correct" than your view of reality? Who is qualified to say? History is full of people denounced as fools, heretics and madmen (i.e. people with reality tunnels containing experiences and ideas outside the arbitrarily defined limits of "normality") such as Galileo and Einstein, whose thoughts later became acceptable.

Fair enough, but what has this got to do with UFOs? Well, as UFOlogists, are we not trying to get to the "truth" of the matter, the "reality" behind the phenomenon? When investigating cases, all photographic and video/film evidence has to be interpreted by the investigator. Different investigators will naturally interpret the evidence in different ways. Even after rigorous analysis, one person's obvious fake may be another researcher's absolute proof. You can argue until you are blue in the face - when it comes down to a matter of personal interpretation (and all evidence has to undergo such a judgement, if it is to have meaning and be slotted into a theory), there is no right or wrong, no "objective truth" out there waiting to be discovered.

When it comes down to interviewing witnesses, the situation becomes even muddier. Here, we have investigators trying to interpret the recollections of witnesses, who themselves will have tried to interpret the UFO event and fit it into their own reality tunnel. Two witnesses to the same, very strange, event may have very different recollections of it, as their brains' struggled to absorb the event and break it down in terms of everyday, known, phenomena. Also, many UFO events are not investigated thoroughly until years after the event. In the intervening period of time, the memories may have faded and distorted. Particularly under hypnosis, fragments of dreams or stories may be recalled, alongside genuine memories, and welded into a coherent UFO experience.

We all need to recognize that we interpret information and evidence in terms of theories and knowledge that we already have. Thus, we come to conclusions that may be radically different to anyone else's, even from the same sensory input. A UFO sighting described by an astronomer is no more "correct" than a description of the same event by a doctor or a bricklayer; the event has just been interpreted in terms of previously known facts that will be different for the two witnesses. Both accounts are equally valid pieces of the same jigsaw puzzle. And ultimately, the theories of Tim Good, Budd Hopkins, Jenny Randles or any other UFOlogist are all equally valid.

Whatever your own theories and beliefs may be, no-one can prove you wrong. But, perhaps, if we can all get together, then maybe we can start to see other people's points of view.



Strange Days Newsletter News.....

A man in Batley, West Yorkshire, placed a bet with William Hill Book - makers some time ago that by January 18th 1994 aliens would have landed and taken control of the planet. Unlucky! Almost worth losing the hundred quid, considering that he was given odds of ten thousand to one against it happening. A spokesman for William Hill said that they had been trying unsuccessfully to get in contact with Mr Howe, the man who placed the bet. Abducted, perhaps? (Radio One, 18/1/94)

Antonio Villas-Boas, the Brazilian abductee, is reported to have died in late 1992 in Uberada, Brazil. He came to fame after his experience in 1957, in which he was taken aboard a UFO and made to have sex with an alien female. (Strange Magazine, No.12)

Roswell has recently been back in the UFOlogical spotlight. A researcher trying to find material for a documentary on Elvis Presley supposedly came across an old film, showing the scene of the Saucer Crash. According to the Daily Mirror (22/12/93), the film is now in the hands of Steven Spielberg no less, who is planning to make a movie of the Roswell incident. The movie, provisionally titled "Project X", is due for release in 1997, 50 years after the alleged crash.

Freak Thunderclap! At approx. 10 am on Monday, 21st Feb this year, a huge bang was heard all over Tyneside, during a snowstorm. Police switchboards were jammed with people fearing a terrorist explosion. It was not, however, a bomb, an earthquake or a UFO crashing. It was a freak clap of thunder, caused by the unusual weather conditions. It blew out the windows of an old peoples' home in Jesmond and the lightning bolt struck an oak tree, detonating a nearby gas main.

I Was Raped by Aliens! yelled the front cover of The People (Sunday 20th February). Enough said.

The latest SETI search has been cancelled after one year of operation. The U.S. based search for extraterrestrial radio signals was originally planned to cover the whole sky over a period of ten years, costing ten million dollars a year to run. Cutbacks have forced it to close down, but researchers say that they have already picked up many promising signals.

In an open letter sent out to BUFORA A.I.s, Jenny Randles outlined her reasons for resigning as Director of Investigations (part of the "major crisis" mentioned in the last issue). Philip Mantle has taken over the position. BUFORA are holding their Annual General Meeting on the 9th April, so there may be more changes in store for the organisation. If anyone is interested, you can find out what happened at our next meeting.

Philip Mantle will have a new book out in August, on the topic of missing time and abduction cases in the British Isles. Written with journalist Carl Nagaitas, it is called "Without Consent", and should prove to be of great interest. It includes the North East case of M.B., as described later in the pages of this newsletter.

A new book is also due out sometime on the Rendlesham Forest incident. Peter Robbins and Larry Warren (a USAF security officer at RAF Bentwaters at the time of the incident) were over in this country in March, completing six and a half years of research and giving talks on the incident.



N.E. CASE REPORTS

Here are the first batch of Case Reports by Gloria Dixon. Hopefully we will be able to cover a couple of the more interesting and important North Eastern cases in each issue of Strange Days from now on. - Ed.

DATE: 1978/79

PLACE: Middlesbrough Cleveland

INVESTIGATORS: Gloria Heather Dixon
Dave A. Newton

INCIDENT : MB described an event which took place on the football field during an afternoon sports lesson. He was about fourteen at the time. He was in goal when he says he was 'clobbered by the ball' on his right ear. He left the pitch and lay face down, resting his head on his arms, and closed his eyes, but states he was conscious. As he lay there a bright light seemed to be above him and his eyes felt as though they were taped down. He was on his back on a hard surface, his legs, head and arms restrained. He felt groggy, but could see and feel something penetrating his abdomen, and recalls seeing figures moving around and rows of flashing colours. A figure to his right appeared, but he could not define any facial features. He was prodded and his next memory is of being face down again, his head hurt and he felt sick, and was sweating and had pain in his right hand side.

This is where things started to appear strange to him. Several of his friends asked him if he was feeling better and what had the PE teacher said to him. They all informed him that they thought he had returned to the changing rooms because when they had looked for him he was not there. He also showed the investigators a small scar where he claimed that something had penetrated his skin.

MB appears to have had a history of paranormal experiences which include precognitive dreams and visions of future events. He related in-depth and complex incidents going back to his childhood, where at the age of approximately four years old he would see the apparition of a little girl in his bedroom on a regular basis. MB also had a somewhat traumatic childhood in that his mother left the family during his formative years. He did not have a close relationship with his father, who appeared to be rather indifferent to his son, but had a close relationship with MB's sister. MB resented this and felt deprived of affection by his family. These areas of traumatic childhood background appear to crop up in many cases of people who experience close encounters or other unusual phenomena. There are researchers, who feel that childhood background of close encounter witnesses is significant and should be researched more closely.

FINAL COMMENTS: This case will be published as a chapter of a book entitled 'WITHOUT CONSENT', by PHILIP MANTLE which is due to be published in June 1994'. 'WITHOUT CONSENT' is a book in which Philip has documented some significant British abduction cases. This will be an extremely important book for researchers of close encounter cases.

DATE: 16 November 1993

PLACE: Cockburnspath, Berwickshire

TIME: 7.30 pm

INVESTIGATOR: Gloria Dixon

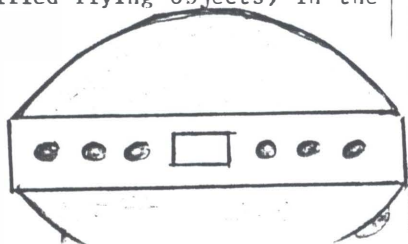
INCIDENT: This sighting was forwarded to me by Philip Mantle of BUFORA. TF is a fifteen year old student, who, together with her younger brother and sister and two friends observed an oval object with red and green lights and a very bright white light. They observed this object initially from their house and then ran outside to the back of the house to observe it. They then described the object as oval in shape with red and green lights and a very bright white light which was likened to a spotlight. TF also goes on to describe the object as a 'flying saucer'. The size of the object compared with that of a small garage, and it was seen initially to the north of Cockburnspath and travelled on a curving track to the south, passing overhead and at an estimated height of 500 metres (without a frame of reference, this would be extremely difficult to estimate). The witnesses reported hearing no sound from the object. Another witness from Innerwick spotted a similar object on the same evening flying in the direction of Cockburnspath.

EVALUATION: When I spoke with TF, I asked her how she had managed to draw the object with such clarity, as of course it would have been dark at 7.30 pm on a November night. She told me that it was a full moon and very bright. However our editor and astronomer informed me that on 13 November 1993, there was a new moon. This would of course mean that three days later on 16th November, the moon would certainly not have been bright or visible.

In my opinion I feel that there is a possibility that TF and her friends saw an aircraft or helicopter of some kind possibly a Tornado military jet. The coastguard in the area did emphasize that the Tornado aircraft can look rather strange. As it climbs it emits a flashing red light, plus green lights on the starboard side and powerful and extremely bright flashing white booster strobe lights. Also helicopters operate up in this area carrying men to and from the oil rigs in the North Sea.

A footnote here for those of you interested in investigation is that it must ALWAYS be remembered that ninety-five per cent, (possibly more) of all sightings in the sky are misinterpretations by the witnesses to something quite normal, a large percentage of which are aircraft, seen under unusual conditions. The other reported sightings of UFOs usually turn out to be bright stars and planets, meteors, satellites, space debris, weather balloons, airships, laser light shows, and unusual atmospheric conditions, such as ball lightning and reflections emanating from aircraft or other objects due to their position in relation to the sun. Even birds can create a UFO report due to the sun reflecting their underbellies when they fly. More about IFOs (identified flying objects) in the next issue of 'Strange Days'.

COPY OF OBJECT AS DRAWN BY TF



Was Darwin only half correct ?

Here are two fascinating articles by Roy Andersen of Denmark, on the work of archaeologist and biblical scholar Zecharia Sitchin. Naturally, I don't agree with everything he has written, and my own comments are at the end of the two articles. -Ed.

The suggestion that our earliest civilization, dating back almost 6,000 years, knew more about aspects of science than we do today is difficult for us to accept. Our experience shows clearly how much we have developed in the past 300 years, that to consider a technological stage 3,000 years ago, let alone 6,000 years, allows us only to think of very primitive levels. But what if they did know more, and for some reason that knowledge was either lost or destroyed amongst warring nations.

Excavations in the lost biblical city of Nineveh in 1875, unearthed a vast library of many thousands of documentations, most of which dated back to the Sumerian civilization nearly 6,000 years ago. Of that documentation the number 195,955,200,000,000 was discovered.

For over 100 years this number baffled scientists, until a NASA engineer named Maurice Chatelain, recalled how he got the shock of his life when he realized that the number equals 240 cycles of the precession of the equinoxes. (1)

Since the Earth bulges at the equator and is not a perfect sphere, an imbalance is created which causes it to wobble slightly as it rotates. This wobbling is accentuated by gravitational pull from the Sun and the Moon, which cause the axis points at the poles to rotate about a small circle. It takes the Earth, some 25,800 years to complete one full movement about this circle, and 240 of those, expressed in seconds, exactly equals the number that was first written down 6,000 years ago. But how did the Sumerians know that? Indeed how did they even know it was the world that moved, and not the sky about the world. A fact not fully appreciated by us until Galileo reinforced Copernicus's theories, that it was the planets that revolved about the Sun, in the 16th Century. The Sumerian knowledge of cosmology, or the working of the universe, was well beyond any level we have today reached. Not only did they know of, but they exactly described the planets Uranus, Neptune and Pluto with their associated orbits and peculiarities. Yet all of these planets are invisible to the naked eye, and were not discovered by us until 1781, 1846 and 1930 respectively, as our technology advanced.

Zecharia Sitchin is an archaeologist and biblical scholar, who has studied ancient civilizations, and in particular that of Sumer, for over 40 years. Based on that research he was able to publish a book in 1976, from which, amongst a great deal of other information relying purely on Sumerian records, he described the planet Neptune as being made of blue coloured water, beset with patches of green swamp like vegetation. (2)

Today's astronomers have always insisted that Neptune and all the other planets of our outer solar system, were composed of pure gas. Even with our best telescopes, Neptune over 3 billion miles away, is a very small dot.

Mr Sitchin's writings were not accepted by the establishment, until in 1986 and 1989, the Voyager 2 satellite sent the first photographs back to Earth of first Uranus and then Neptune. Not only were Mr Sitchin's writings confirmed, but every other detail of which he had written has since not been disproved, but more often supported.

The Sumerians base their incredible knowledge on the information given to them by a race of people who first came to Earth 445,000 years ago, from a planet we now know to exist. (3)

The Sumerian's tale of creation, follow Darwin's theory of evolution from a single self-replicating cell to the development of a primitive man called Homo erectus who first appeared some 1.5 million years ago. But from there, it takes a different turn.

Scientists who study early man, are amazed and some times puzzled by the sudden and enormous leap in the achievements of the successors to Homo erectus. Homo sapiens first appeared 300,000 years ago with very (4)

little relation to the earlier Homo erectus. Not only were their technical achievements far superior, but for the first time man could speak a language. They expressed themselves by paintings, had a social structure that cared for its sick, and most significantly they had religion. They knew they were going to die, and they created burial mounds where they equipped their dead for the after life. The Sumerians explained this in very specific documents, as the genetic upgrading between the ape-people (Homo erectus) and the people who came from the heavens.

In lay terms they were called gods, although their real name was the Anunnaki. In our bible they are referred to as the Nefilim, and they imparted into their new man, not just compassion and learning but also a spirit.

It was from here that our bible takes over, or rather the original script from which our bible is merely the final edition of a long line of copies of the story of creation that was first written down 6,000 years ago. Each translation, enforcing its own language adaptations and slightly, but significantly differing from the original.

The bases of the Christian religion is of a one and single God. yet in the bible, Genesis 1:26 states: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." But the original Hebrew text from which the bible was based, refers not to a single God, for they use the word Elohim, which is the plural form, meaning Gods. Equally the original description is not of a single man, but a reference to the plural "men". And so, what is today "Man created by God", was in the original form "Men created by Gods".

The bible was copied from the Hebrew version where it was translated and condensed, slightly altering its meaning. But the Hebrew version was its-self copied from the Assyrians, who in turn copied it from the Babylonians. And would you believe, it was the Babylonians who copied it from the Sumerians. A civilization that arose suddenly and seemingly from nowhere in a country we today call Iraq.

Zecharia Sitchin has written six books on his work, which in paperback have sold over 10 million copies. These books, now in beautifully bound hardback, as well as an exciting and incredible video film, relate not just what the Sumerians wrote of, but include NASA satellite photographs showing pyramids and a sphinx that were built on Mars 450,000 years ago. It offers hard proof that life existed on Mars then, and still does TODAY !



The creation and the early working of our solar system comes under the science we call cosmology. And cosmologists working from observation of recent events and mathematical hypothesis have concluded how our solar system, the Sun and the planets which orbit the Sun, evolved. It is therefore only natural, that as our technology improves, and we are able to explore those planets, can we either collaborate or amend our reasoning.

Along these lines, scientists until quite recently believed that Earth was the only planet where water could be found. However, highly developed satellites have found evidence of water in unbelievable quantities everywhere through out our solar system from Neptune right through to Mercury. (5)

Indeed, while Neptune was always thought to be composed of pure gas, as were all the other planets of our outer solar system, scientists were astonished to discover it was composed of a small rocky centre, surrounded to a depth of 6,000 miles by super heated, rich blue water. Perhaps at this time, in 1989, there was one man who had the conviction of knowing exactly what the Pioneer 2 satellite would discover when it sent back to Earth photographs for the first time of Neptune, over 3 billion miles away, and a very small dot to the most advanced Earth based telescopes. (2)

That man's name is Zecharia Sitchin, and for the past forty years, as archaeologist, biblical scholar and author, he has studied in great depth the recordings left behind by the Sumerians, Earth's first civilization. Many thousands of those recordings, in the form of clay tablets were unearthed during the last century, although regrettably placed to one side until recently, due to the upsurge and interest in egyptology brought about by the famous Flinders Petrie and Carter's excavations of the Tomb of Tut-ankh-Amon.

The photograph attached to this article is an example of one such tablet. It depicts our Sun and all of the planets that Sumerian cosmology knew of. Here we can count a system of 12 members including the Sun and our Moon, that were recorded in this 4,500 year old tablet. This tablet was discovered 100 years ago, when we only knew of 8 planets. In fact it had only been through advancements in technology which led to a greater understanding of astronomy, that it had been possible to discover Uranus in 1781, Neptune in 1846 and Pluto in 1930. Which in total only gives us a solar system of 11 members.

However, NASA has realized that deviations in the movements of Uranus and Neptune, has convinced them of the existence of an outer solar system body of 4 to 8 Earth masses, lying beyond 7 billion miles from the Sun. So sure of this planet, are NASA that they now only have to name it. And having done so, we will then find that our solar system has 12 members and we will have caught up with our first civilizations knowledge of cosmology. (6)

The Sumerians called this planet NIBIRU, and it is upon the writings of this planet, and the people who came to Earth 450,000 years ago from that planet, that the Sumerians gained their knowledge. A knowledge that not only presented alternative explanations to our own understanding of cosmology such as the creation of our planet, being the broken half of a much larger planet with evidence in the scar cracks of the Pacific Ocean floor. They also explained how Pluto as a moon of Saturn, was broken from its orbit to form its own peculiar orbit around the Sun as a solitary planet. But again Pluto was not discovered by us until 1930. They explained the retrograde motion of Neptunes largest moon, Triton which was invisible to us until 1846, and they explained precisely five stages of the development of our solar system. But they also introduced the 12 signs of the Zodiac, based upon the 12 members of the solar system. They incorporated all evidence of a high society such as law and administration that we use today, and as evidence of their knowledge of medicine, we only have to examine the symbol they used of two snakes entwined. That symbol is still used today by medical science and medical corps, yet as a pictorial symbol it is the most simple and exact description of the microscopic double helix structure of D.N.A., The precursor to all plant and animal life for which understanding, Francis Crick was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1962. For those seeking physical evidence to ancient science there is a battery cell in a German museum that is 3,500 years old ! (7)

In great factual detail and scientific presentation, Zecharia Sitchin has wonderfully brought alive in five exciting books and an incredible video film "ARE WE ALONE" the writings of the Sumerians and the legacy left to mankind of those people from a planet NASA is today actively seeking.

In the space of this article I would like to refer to Mr Sitchin's revelation of the Sumerian cosmology which allows them to tell their own story.

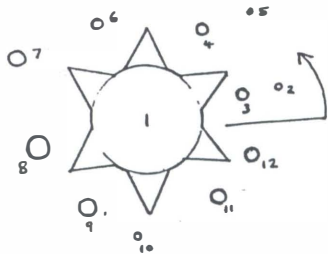
Pluto, they called US.MI which meant "He Who Shows The Way", and since Pluto was not discovered until 5,000 years after this recording, it can only explain that Pluto was a guide for someone entering our solar system from deep space. Earth they called KI. "The Seventh Planet", and was represented by seven balls and a crescent shaped moon. But again it is only the seventh planet when you count inwards from Pluto which we did not rediscover until 1930.

Neptune was "EA" or "He whose House is Water", as was described at the beginning of this article. Saturn became in Sumerian "ANSHAR" - "Foremost of the Heavens". It could only have been in the knowledge that the Rings of Saturn extend some 670,000 miles, could they have differentiated with Jupiter, by calling this planet "KISHAR" - "Foremost of the Firmlands". A Planet so huge in its single body that it represents over 3/4 of the mass of our solar system.

By his life times effort, Mr Sitchin has proven that archaeology testifies to the reality of the writings of the bible. We now know that the bible is not a series of stories invented 2,000 years ago, but is an exact, although often incorrectly translated and historical account of the development of mankind and his relation to THOSE WHO FROM HEAVEN CAME.

The Sumerian Solar System

As Mr. Sitchin points out, only in this configuration do the distance between the planets truly conform to Bode's Law.



1. APSU (Sun).
2. MUMMU (Mercury).
3. LAHAMU (Venus).
4. KI (Earth) The seventh planet as counted by NIBIRU coming into the solar system from where Pluto is now positioned.
5. DUGGAE (Moon).
6. LAHMU (Mars).

7. NIBIRU (Planet of the Crossing - coming into our orbit once every 3,600 years).
8. KISHAR (Jupiter).
9. ANSHAR (Saturn).
10. GAGA - shown as a satellite of Saturn before it was knocked to its position as our outermost planet, where it was given the name US.MI.
11. ANU. (Uranus).
12. E.A. (Neptune) He whose house is water, a statement not accepted by us until we obtained photographic evidence in 1989.

If you would like to know more of Sumerian cosmology and how they obtained their knowledge, that factual evidence is presented in the film "ARE WE ALONE" which cost 1 million dollars in its production, and was based on the books "The 12th Planet" and "Genesis Revisited", written by Zecharia Sitchin.

Editors Notes.

1) Almost anything can be proven with numbers. If the Sumerian number 195,955,200,000,000 is related to the precession of the equinoxes, why did they multiply it by 240? For example, 195,955,200,000,000 is the age of the Earth, in years, multiplied by 49,000. Big deal. The classic example of this sort of numerical trickery is the huge variety of things that have been read into the dimensions of the Great Pyramid in Egypt. Interesting, yes. But does it prove anything?

2) Uranus and Neptune are two large planets, similar in size (around 50,000 km in diameter) and mass (Uranus has a mass of 8.7×10 to the power 24 kilograms, and Neptune is slightly more massive). It was expected, from the densities of the planets, that they would be composed of an Earth sized rocky core with a thick layer of water, ammonia and methane on top. The blue colour of Neptune is caused by the thick methane/hydrocarbon atmosphere, not the water/ammonia layer hidden from view. There are no "patches of green swamp like vegetation", as demonstrated by Voyager 2, that flew past the planet in August 1989.

3) And what planet is that, then? (See also note 6).

4) Evolution does not seem to progress in a slow orderly fashion, but in fits and starts. The "sudden" leap in human evolution several hundred thousand years ago is but one of several unexpected and genuinely puzzling evolutionary leaps that are known. Such "sudden" changes occur over perhaps tens of thousands of years. Clearly the driving mechanism behind evolution (if it is not aliens) is not properly understood yet. Things are not helped by the fact that fossilization requires very special conditions to occur, and many hundreds of years may pass between two members of a species being suitably preserved for us to dig up at a later date.

5) Mercury is an airless, cratered ball similar in appearance to the far side of our moon. It is the closest planet to the Sun, and is therefore very hot. There is no water on the surface of the planet. Similarly, there is no free water on the surface of Venus, the Moon, Mars or Pluto. The giant planets Jupiter and Saturn do not have surfaces as such, they just have incredibly thick atmospheres of hydrogen, helium, methane and ammonia with perhaps a small rocky core at the centre. Some of the moons of the larger planets may have liquid water, but most of the water will be locked up as ice.

6) Recent work by Myles Standish at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena has shown that "Planet X" probably does not exist after all. The deviations in the movements of the planets Uranus and Neptune from their expected positions were due to astronomers doing calculations with inaccurate values for their masses. If the accurate values determined by Voyager 2 are used, Uranus and Neptune are right on course. No tenth planet is needed, or expected to be found, in our Solar System.

7) The "Baghdad Battery" is one of several electrical cells that have turned up from antiquity. However, they do not produce a great deal of electrical power. Certainly the ancients did have a good deal more knowledge than our experts like to give them credit for. However, one would have hoped for a more advanced piece of technology from a technologically advanced civilization. I'll believe it when they dig up a cold fusion cell, rather than a crude battery. Sorry!



Roax!

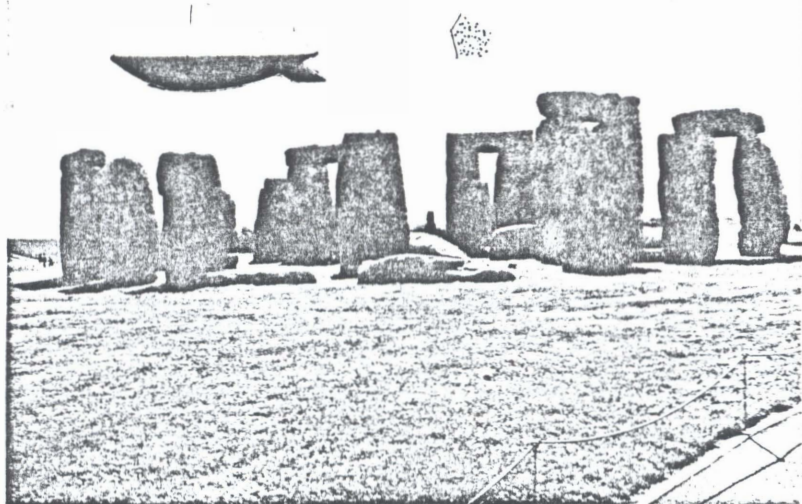
The Hopkinsville Goblins? ➡
John W. Coates of Houston, Texas, was passing through southern Kentucky during November 1992 and decided to check up on the details of the case (which happened in August 1955). The place was not a small town, as reported, but merely a few houses. Coates arranged an interview with ex-policeman R.N. Ferguson, who was sent out to investigate the case. Ferguson took statements from the people involved, who he considered to be "Not the most stable people you'll ever meet", and decided there was nothing in the story. A hole in their window screen, allegedly caused by gunfire, looked as though it had been cut with a razor blade. He also recalled that a sci-fi film had been playing at the local cinema that week.



Hoax!

Here's a photo with a flying submarine, hoaxed in the same manner, probably, as the "Above Top Secret" photo in our last issue.

SUBMARINE & STONE AGE
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THE ROSWELL ALIEN MYSTERY by Craig C. Jackson

Probably the most famous UFO crash in the field, the Roswell incident has been covered in many magazines and books.

I have closely read nearly all of them and discovered quite a few inconsistencies - specifically, the alleged alien beings discovered at the crash site.

They are usually described as small (3 to 4 feet tall) but the colour of their skin and shape of their eyes varies. Grey skin and large eyes with no pupils, small eyes (smaller than human eyes), slanted eyes, yellow skin. How can these varied descriptions all apply to the same beings? Is there an explanation for the discrepancies? In my view, what people perceive as grey "skin" could be a form of plastic "helmet" for their protection, in one case the skin texture actually

being described as "plastic". The large pupil-less eyes could be similar to contact lenses for the same reason. Without the protective helmets and lenses, the aliens may have slanted eyes and yellow skin.

Regarding "small eyes", could they have been closed at the time of sighting? As this witness only had a glance at the being for a few seconds, this can't be ruled out.

With human space helmets, the visors are totally black. Is it possible they use a similar type of protection when travelling through space and exploring the Earth's surface? They may need these devices when working in our atmosphere, just as humans need special equipment when working on the moon.

I have recently come across some other explanations for the Roswell incident:

1) A military operation designed to detract witnesses away from top secret nuclear weapon testing.

The craft and alien beings constructed by military personnel would seem a perfect ruse to keep the public confused and unaware of their real purpose.

2) Fugo balloons. Made by the Japanese in World War 2, these constructions were made of similar material to that which was found at Roswell - a parchment like substance which was pretty tough and hard to break.

There have also been rumours that at one crash site in the USA a balloon containing two dead Japanese pilots in jump suits was found, which is very intriguing when considering the descriptions of the beings mentioned earlier.

It is interesting to note that American film director Steven Spielberg is planning a major UFO film. It is alleged to include genuine film footage of the Roswell crash site featuring the craft and alien beings.

If true, this could end 47 years of speculation and rumour, hopefully bringing the "Roswell alien mystery" to an incredible conclusion.

When UFOs are IFOs by Craig Carl Jackson

In the early to mid 1980s strange "V" shaped objects were spotted in the night skies over the U.K. and U.S.A. When reported to the authorities, no explanation was given, and so they remained a mystery.

Then, due to the necessity of daylight trials, the authorities relented and in 1988 admitted that the U.S.A.F. had been testing a new, revolutionary, aircraft: The Lockheed F-117A Stealth fighter. The craft's chief asset being R.A.M. (Radar Absorbent Material), which renders the fighter [almost] invisible to radar detection, it represented a giant leap forwards in aviation technology. R.A.M. was also used on the Northrop B-2 Stealth bomber, which is similar in shape to the F-117A.

These incredible craft, have a sinister other worldly look about them which is probably why many early sightings were described as alien spaceships.

There are still many such craft being tested, the latest being the Aurora "spy-plane" (once again, its existence denied by the authorities) which has created a great deal of interest in UFO circles. White glows, 'quake inducing sonic booms, and

incredible speed have all been attributed to this mysterious aircraft.

And so to the future, many times the question has been asked, does the government (especially the U.S. government) have alien technology at its disposal? In the Nevada desert lies a region known as Area 51 (government owned), many rumours abound about strange glowing discs and lights making incredible manoeuvres there. This location is well known for being a test zone for high-tech military hardware, but the craft seen flying around Groom Lake [the Area 51 test area] seem beyond human capabilities.

I have seen video tape of two of these objects in flight, and they really seem to defy conventional flight patterns. Have todays scientists made a breakthrough in aircraft technology, or have they learned how to operate alien craft after many years of research on their propulsion systems?

Whether they are man made or of extraterrestrial origin is open to question, but this whole area of UFO activity is quite astonishing and begs further investigation.

My own thoughts on the topics of alien/military collaboration and secret bases are well known. In the absence of any definite proof regarding alien involvement, to invoke them as the originators of these new aircraft seems to me to be severely underestimating the ingenuity and abilities of our own, human, scientists and engineers. - Ed.



THE QABALAH DECODED? - George Handleigh

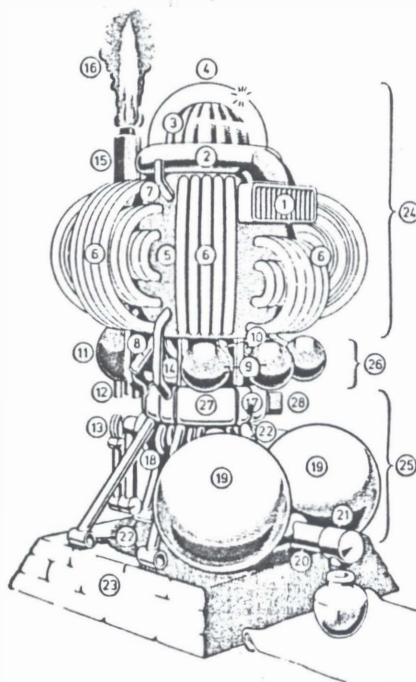
Note on the Qabalah (or Kabbalah): This was originally a Jewish system of theosophy, philosophy, science, magick and mysticism later reinterpreted in accordance with Christianity. Its mysticism is similar to that of Gnosticism, and parts of the Sefer Vezirah date back to the 8th century. The Christian Qabalah was formulated at the end of the 15th century, and is possibly the most important part of Western Occultism. - Ed.

In the 1970s two engineers came across an obscure book called the Kabbalah. This book was thought to be about mystical matters and is used by mystics to enhance their rituals. But, when George Sassoon and Rodney Dale read the Kabbalah they recognised it as a description of a mechanical object. The whole book is devoted to describing the "Ancient of Days", and what is more it says that this "being" produced manna for 40 years in the wilderness.

Sassoon and Dale set out to show that such a machine could exist. So, following the descriptions contained in the Kabbalah, of its various parts, they proceeded to construct a model of the Ancient of Days. Below is a diagram of their construction.

Those wishing to find out more might like to read "The Kabbalah Decoded" and "The Manna Machine" by Dale and Sassoon.

- 1 'Mouth' (air intake) carrying the 'breath of life' (air) via ...
- 2 annular duct to ...
- 3 'the brain of the Ancient One' (dew still).
- 4 'the ether' or 'transparent outer shell of the Ancient One'.
The water from the still runs into ...
- 5 'the great sea' (*Chirella* culture-tank) where the manna production starts: the culture solution circulates through ...
- 6 'the horns of the beard of the Ancient One' (gas exchange pipes) and is irradiated by 'the upper eye' (the light source in the centre of the culture-tank - not visible).
The culture-tank is furnished with ...
- 7 'the remnant' (safety valve) and ...
- 8 'the residues of the brain' (drain cock).
Connected to the culture-tank are ...
- 9 'the three lower eyes' (tanks containing nutrient salts) fed via ...
- 10 'the channels of the lower eyes' (connecting pipes).
The light and power for the machine are derived from ...
- 11 'the fire-containing vessel' (fusker reactor) with its ...
- 12 'keys' (controlled actuators).
Remote handlings performed by ...
- 13 'the arm of the Small-faced One' (mechanical arm and hand).
The air drawn over the still passes through ...
- 14 'the long nose' (ventilation duct) and is dusted past the reactor (11) in order to cool it and then connects up ...
- 15 'the nose of the Small-faced One' (exhaust) producing ...
- 16 'the column of smoke by day and the column of life by night'.
A Buchner pump (not visible) in the exhaust produces the vacuum needed to process the *Chlorella* in ...
- 17 'the cavities of the brain of the Small-faced One' (manna processing plant).
The Buchner pump is connected to 'the cavities of the brain' by ...
- 18 'the beard of the Small-faced One' (vacuum pipe manifold).
The processed manna is stored in ...
- 19 'the horns' (manna storage vessels) and is drawn off through ...
- 20 'the penis' (manna discharge pipe) and ...
- 21 'the cover of the penis' (vacuum lock).
The machine stands upon ...
- 22 'the six columns six' (six legs with stirrups for carrying poles) resting on ...
- 23 'the throne' (platform of local materials) which is 'cast down' when the machine is moved.
The whole machine 'the Ancient of Days' may be separated into ...
- 24 'the Ancient One' (top part) and ...
- 25 'the Small-faced One' (bottom part).
Between these two parts are ...
- 26 'the nakedness' (intake face unit) below which are ...
- 27 'the crown of the Small-faced One' (topmost covers) and ...
- 28 'the ear of the Small-faced One' (communications unit)



Engineers seem to have a knack of taking things very literally, and coming up with some startling findings: Good books to read by such people include "Our Ancesters Came from Outer Space" by Maurice Chatelain, "The Spaceships of Ezekiel" by J.F. Blumrich, and "How to build a Flying Saucer" by T.B. Pawlicki. - Ed.



TUNGUSKA, 1908: COMET, METEOR OR UFO? by D.A.Newton

At seventeen minutes after midnight on the last day of June, 1908, something very unusual detonated over central Siberia. The sky was so bright that perfectly sharp photographs were taken in the middle of the (admittedly brief) night in Stockholm, and in London it was possible to read the small print in The Times at midnight.

More than 770 square miles of Siberia were devastated, an area the size of Birmingham or Philadelphia.

Expeditions to the area were made by a Soviet scientist named Leonid Kulik in the years 1927, 28, 28-29 and 1937. After the second world war, expeditions resumed in 1957. What greeted Kulik when he first reached the site was a vast area of flattened trees, all pointing away from the centre of the explosion. His mission was to collect information on meteorite falls for the Soviet Academy of Sciences, so he headed to the centre of the destruction to look for pieces of what was assumed to be a meteorite.

Kulik followed the line of fallen trees to a natural amphitheatre in some hills. By walking around the hills, he was able to see that all of the trees pointed roughly away from the bowl in the hills, and that was where the enormous blast had originated. Yet, there was no crater; the blast must have occurred in the air, for in the centre of the hills, remarkably, there were still some trees standing (although stripped of their branches). Kulik thought that he knew where pieces of the meteorite must be, since the "Cauldron" contained dozens of peculiar flat holes, up to tens of metres across and several metres deep. However, these holes are common features of the taiga, and were no meteoric fragments were found in them. A magnetic survey for iron fragments also found nothing. Whatever had caused the explosion had left no trace of itself. Only the burned and flattened trees remained.

As the years passed, more details of what happened emerged. The explosion left a distinctive pattern of treefall spread over an irregularly shaped area of roughly 40km by 45km. The scientists calculated that the explosion released between 10 and 20

megatons of energy somewhere around 8km above the ground. (The Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs each released about 20 kilotons of energy, so the Tunguska event was perhaps a thousand times more energetic). There had been at least two blast waves, the explosion, and a ballistic wave. There were flash burns on the tree trunks, and evidence of a brief fire that had rapidly spread through the debris. What could have caused such destruction?

The lack of meteoric material has created much speculation as to what caused this explosion. After the second world war, the parallels with atomic explosions became obvious: The blast damage and the flash burns were similar; as at Hiroshima, structures in the centre of the blast remained standing; eyewitnesses in Siberia reported seeing a huge pillar of smoke that might have been what we now call a mushroom cloud; and that cloud lifted a vast amount of dirt and dust into the atmosphere that caused light, bright nights well into July until it started to fall to Earth ("fallout"). Could it be possible that an enormous nuclear explosion had taken place 8km above Siberia in 1908? It certainly could not have been caused by a human device. Unfortunately, no radiation readings were taken at the site until 1960, by which time the readings would have been virtually back to normal. (Dr Aleksei Zolotov, who visited the site in 1960, says that there is some evidence of excess caesium 137 in tree rings at the site).

Dr Zolotov attributed the slightly oval shape of the blast to an explosive charge being encased in a shell. Some eyewitness accounts talked of the falling object as being like a pipe or cylinder, perhaps tapering to one end. However, one should exercise caution when dealing with

observations of this bright and exceedingly fast moving object. Dr Zolotov went on to suggest that the explosion was deliberately caused by a highly advanced civilization, to let us know that they are out there. Fair enough, but it's not very friendly, is it?

In 1964, Genrikh Altov and Valentina Zhuravlena (a pair of Russian writers) suggested that the blast was caused by a super powerful laser beam, aimed by a civilization on a planet orbiting in the star system of 61 Cygni. They suggested that it was in response to the volcanic explosion of Krakatoa in 1883, which they took to be a man-made signal. This theory suffers from several problems, one of which is that it is hard to get a laser beam to explode in mid air. Interesting, but highly unlikely.

Ever since anti-matter was first postulated and created, people have speculated that vast amounts of it may be lurking in outer space, waiting to vaporize us. However, this too is highly unlikely. Back in 1949, Ralph Baldwin showed that an antimatter meteorite massive enough to reach within 8km of the Earth's surface would release more than 10,000 times as much energy as the Tunguska event!

Another theory put forwards was the idea that the explosion could have been caused by a collision with a mini black hole. True, a large amount of energy would be released as it ate its way through our planet, but it would also create equal havoc when it exited the opposite side of the Earth. As the Soviet researchers quickly found, no such upheavals were seen. Whatever it was self destructed before it hit the surface. It could not have burrowed all of the way through and emerged the other side.

Various natural explanations have been put forwards, including ball lightning (!) and an explosion of swamp gas. This can be ruled out, since it would require the ignition of 60 billion cubic feet of methane gas. It would be almost impossible for this quantity of gas to produce a

point like explosion.

Until recently, the standard scientific explanation was that it was caused by a comet or meteor. Comets, however, are very soft lumps of dust and ice, and should disintegrate high up in the atmosphere. As for the meteorite model, the lack of fragments at the site has always been a problem. Meteorites are lumps of rock or metal that either burn up totally in the atmosphere ("shooting stars") or, if they are larger, partially burn up and the remains hit the ground. How could a meteorite, as large as the Tunguska meteorite must have been, not hit the ground and leave a massive crater?

The major evidence that came to light after the second world war was the existence of tiny globules of magnetite and silicate. These particles were found embedded in the ground and in tree trunks. Although tiny, chemical analysis has been able to show that these globules contain gases and various elements in proportions that are usually found in extra terrestrial objects such as asteroids. Whatever it was, it was from outer space. But was it natural, or artificial?

Much has been made of eyewitness reports that the object was cylindrical, as mentioned above. This can possibly be dismissed, since meteors and space debris burning up in the atmosphere are commonly described in such terms. This is because you do not see the object itself, but the fiery envelope of gas around it. Much more baffling are the eyewitness reports that talked about the object changing direction as it approached the ground. Although this is not unknown (one meteorite was even tracked plunging through the atmosphere over Montana, when it changed direction and shot back into space!) it is very unusual. Could this object have been a nuclear powered spacecraft? Could it have malfunctioned as it entered the Earth's atmosphere, and exploded in a nuclear fireball? This would certainly explain most of the evidence. It

has even been suggested that the craft was aiming for Lake Baykal, which is the largest body of fresh water in the world, perhaps to replenish its stocks. This is a very remote part of the world, and would be ideal for alien craft to hide a base.

The spacecraft theory, too, has its drawbacks: It would need to be a very badly designed ship for its nuclear power plant to explode when it overheated. For example, look at some human nuclear disasters such as Chernobyl and Three Mile Island. When a nuclear reactor overheats, it melts down to a pool of liquid metal and spews radiation everywhere. It does not explode like a thermonuclear weapon, which requires a very special and delicate (believe it or not) construction. Also, the tiny globules suggest that the object was probably natural, unless the craft had been carved out of a stony asteroid. Like all untestable hypotheses, it must remain a possibility.

In fact, something similar in nature probably happened over the Canadian town of Revelstoke on the night of the 31st of March, 1965. It was a clear night, and thousands of people saw the explosion of a large meteor roughly 30 km above the ground. A pilot reported the event while flying 800 km away, and a loud bang was heard over 200 km away. This event was calculated to have released 20 kilotons of energy, roughly the same as the Nagasaki bomb, so it was a good deal smaller than the Tunguska event. However, had it exploded nearer the ground, then a similar pattern of destruction might have been produced. Like the Tunguska event, no meteorite fragments were ever found. The Revelstoke event may also have remained a mystery, had it not been for the discovery of two patches of darkened snow by a pair of beaver trappers. These patches were found to contain less than one gram of powdered meteorite material. When analysed, the object was determined to be a soft carbonaceous chondrite, a type of primitive and fragile meteorite. It was lucky the

patches were found, because after the snows had melted no trace of the object would have ever been found.

So what happened? Why did a lump of rock suddenly explode in mid air, and not (luckily) hit the ground? The answer lies in the size and strength of the meteorite. The hardest, strongest meteorites are made of iron. These always hit the ground if they do not burn up on their way through the atmosphere. The next strongest type are stony-iron meteorites, and these are followed by the stony meteorites. The weakest types are the carbonaceous meteorites. A typical meteorite enters the atmosphere at a speed of 15 km per second (34,000 miles per hour). Given that they are usually pretty unaerodynamic lumps of rock, they have a high air drag factor. As the rock plunges through the atmosphere, the air in front does not have time to get out of the way, and an area of high pressure develops in front of the meteorite. Similarly, behind the meteorite, air does not have time to fill in the hole so an area of very low pressure develops. A huge pressure difference builds up across the meteorite. The strong iron and stony-iron meteorites can withstand this pressure, and they live long enough to hit the ground. For the softer types, a different fate awaits.

Being less structurally sound, they start to break up under the pressure. Air resistance causes them to flatten or "pancake", which increases their air resistance even further. In a few short moments, the object slows from several kilometers per second to virtually standstill. In one tiny instant, all of the kinetic energy of the rock has to be converted into a different type of energy: The meteorite explodes violently, leaving only microscopic fragments of itself.

At Revelstoke, the object exploded too high up in the atmosphere for the blast and heat waves to cause any damage on the ground. At Tunguska, the meteorite was of the stronger stony type, and it penetrated far enough for

the blast and heat waves to cause major damage.

Several Revelstoke type events occur each year, but mostly go unnoticed. The Tunguska object, if caused by a meteorite, was only about 60 metres across. There are many such objects floating about in space, and it is only a matter of time before such an event occurs again. Perhaps these are the real space invaders we should be worried about.

References:

"Astronomy", Dec 1993: "Death from the Sky" by Chris Chyba.
John Baxter & Thomas Atkins:
"The Fire Came By", Futura, 1976.
Jack Stoneley: "Tunguska - Cauldron of Hell", Star, 1977.
Welfare & Fairley: "Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World", Collins, 1980.
Patrick Moore: "The Guinness Book of Astronomy", 2nd Ed, Guinness, 1983

Editor's Choice: Top 10 Books on UFOs. (In no particular order!)

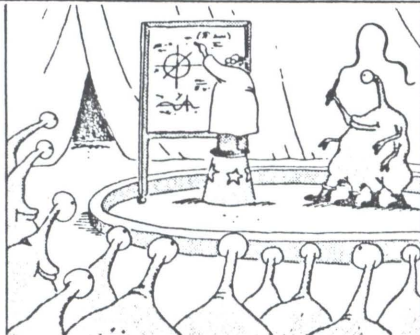
Alien Liaison - Tim Good;
Earthlights - Paul Devereaux;
The Dark Gods - Roberts and Gilbertson;
Dimensions - Jacques Vallee;
Flying Saucers - Carl Gustav Jung;
The Flying Saucer Vision - John Michell;
Flying Saucers from Outer Space - Donald E. Keyhoe;
Strange Creatures from Time and Space - John Keel;
The UFO Handbook - Allan Hendry; and
The Roswell Incident - Berlitz and Moore.

Top 10 Books on weirdness: (Some of these are excellent, others are rather less so; but all of them are classics!)

Cosmic Trigger - Robert Anton Wilson;
Focault's Pendulum - Umberto Eco;
Worlds in Collision - Immanuel Velikovsky;
Chariots of the Gods - Erich von Daniken;
The Spaceships of Ezekiel - Josef Blumrich;
The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail - Baigent, Leigh and Lincoln;
Supernature - Lyall Watson;
The Philadelphia Experiment - Berlitz and Moore;
The View over Atlantis - John Michell; and
The Morning of the Magicians - Pauwels and Bergier.

Top 5 Sceptical books on UFOs and weirdness:
(Try these for a slice of sanity.)

The New Apocrypha - John Sladek;
The Space Gods Revealed - Ronald Story;
Guardians of the Universe? - Ronald Story;
Some Trust in Chariots - Various;
Can You Speak Venusian? - Patrick Moore.



Abducted by an alien circus company,
Professor Doyle is forced to write calculus
equations in center ring.

[Cartoon by Gary Larson.]